

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow up steps taken in this regard to check recurrence of the epidemic in Surat and other places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The Technical Advisory Committee on Plague under the chairmanship of Prof. V. Ramalingaswamy have come to the conclusion that the Plague outbreak in 1994 was due to *Y. Pestis*.

(c) A National Apical Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secretary to formulate a nation-wide disease surveillance network. The action points envisaged under the disease surveillance scheme are collection and flow of information, strengthening of laboratory diagnostic services, networking of centres and continuous monitoring of disease prevalence.

ISI Activities

1479. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received reports that Pakistan's I.S.I. is trapping Indian youths with the false promise to provide them jobs in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) While we have not received reports of ISI trapping Indian youth with false promises to provide them jobs in foreign countries, Government are aware of the role being played by Pakistani agencies in promoting disaffection and supporting terrorism in India.

(c) and (d) Government are resolved to continue taking all measures to counter the role of Pakistani agencies directed against India.

Sabotage by ISI

1480. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the newsitem captioned "ISI plans to create chaos in Kashmir" appearing in 'The Economic Times', New Delhi dated February 3, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the steps being taken to counter the eleven-point plan of action reportedly embarked upon by the inter Services Intelligence of Pakistan to create chaos and confusion in Jammu & Kashmir through Insurgents ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government are fully aware of the fact that Pakistan's support and promotion of trans-

border terrorism directed against India, particularly, in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, continues. Government are resolved to taking all measures to counter Pakistan's support to cross-border terrorism.

Loan to Hospitals in Cannanore

1481. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have advanced any amount by way of loan to any of the co-operative hospitals in Cannanore district of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of amounts granted to each such hospital; and

(c) the terms and conditions for advancing the loan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Irrigation Management

1482. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the newsitem captioned "Meet stresses better Irrigation management" appearing in daily 'Pioneer' dated January 22, 1997;

(b) if so, whether it is fact that an idea came up in the above national conference regarding participation of the farmer in the management of irrigation projects;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action to implement the above idea so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Water being a State subject, the role of Union Ministry of Water Resources is that of facilitator whereas the implementation of participatory Irrigation Management has to be done by the State Governments. National Water Policy of 1987 recommended that farmers should be progressively involved in the management of irrigation system. Under centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme, necessary guidelines have been

issued to participating States to involve farmers at minor (canal) level through formation of Water Users' Associations. Management subsidy is provided to these Associations under the Programme. A series of Conferences on Participatory Irrigation Management have been held at National, State and Project levels to create mass awareness among officials and farmers. Training courses on participatory process are being conducted for officers and farmers. States have been advised to form High Level Working Groups to consider policy issues and guidelines on participatory irrigation management. Action has been taken by the Ministry of Water Resources to prepare manuals in four regional languages. Work of preparing drafts of model amendments to irrigation acts in order to give legal status to farmers organisations is in progress. The Ministry of Water Resources has been vigorously disseminating information about Participatory Irrigation Management in various States and other countries to the State Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Problems in Education

1483. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since received a memorandum dated July 12, 1996 from the All India Primary Teachers Federation regarding the problems of education in general and at primary level in particular; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Most of the suggestions given by the All India Primary Teachers Federation on various matters contained in their memorandum dated July 12, 1996 have been kept in view by the Working Groups constituted by the Planning Commission while formulating proposals for the IX Five Year Plan. A number of suggestions are within the purview of State Governments.

Research on Taxol

1484. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any research or study had been undertaken by the Indian Council of Medical Research on the taxol as an anti-cancer drug; and

(b) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) No specific research has been conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research on Taxol an anti-cancer drug derived from the Himalayan yew *Taxus baccata* and *T. Walligiana*.

Increase in Population

1485. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the percentage of increase in population in the country has been on the rise;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to frame any law for controlling the population;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the estimated increase of population in urban and rural areas respectively; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) No, Sir. The annual exponential growth rate of population was 2.14% during 1981-91 as against 2.22% during 1971-81. According to the Sample Registration System figures of 1995 the natural increase of population is 1.93%.

(b) to (d) The National Family Welfare Programme is voluntary and the focus is on improvement in the quality of services so as to increase acceptance levels.

The actual and estimated increase of population for urban and rural are given as below :

	Population in Millions		
	Total	Rural	Urban
1981 (Census)	683.3	523.8	159.5
1991 (Census)	846.3	628.7	217.6
2001 (Projected)	1012.4	721.2	291.2

Availability of Ambulances

1486. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Vehicles carrying patients to death" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 8, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) total number of ambulances held by the Government hospitals in Delhi, hospital-wise and the number out of them in an obvious state of disrepair;

(d) whether in the event of CT scanner being out of order, the hospitals find it difficult to refer the patients particularly head injury cases to other hospitals; and